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TCS-4867-59

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2 June 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Colonel James H. Macia, Jr., AFCIN  
**SUBJECT :** TALENT ELINT  
**REFERENCE :** Memo for Chairman ARC dated 24 April 1959  
(TH-0529-9)

1. The following is a recapitulation of my findings upon investigation of your expressed concern for delay in NTPC's receiving tapes resulting from TALENT missions:

a. All System One, Four, Five, and Six tapes derived from missions directed against the USSR [ ] have been forwarded to NTPC. 50X1

b. These tapes have moved (except in five cases to be noted in 1 c and d) from CIA OSI ELINT processing laboratories to NTPC promptly as soon as preliminary read-out had been accomplished, such read-out being required by the operations for technical feed-back and information bearing upon further operations. The preliminary report produced in pursuance of this read-out has, of course, been disseminated to the community promptly also.

c. In three cases of System Four tapes transmission to NTPC of the tapes has been delayed in order to permit a more complete read-out and an intelligence appreciation in pursuance of the request of the Ad Hoc Requirements Committee or other Headquarters authorities. (These are [ ]) Processing of these three missions was accomplished with the concurrence of NTPC because its peak load at that time would not permit accomplishment of the read-out as speedily as could be achieved by CIA OSI. This peak load was also the occasion of delay of transmittal of the [ ] tape. This transmittal was delayed four months at the request of NTPC. A preliminary report was disseminated to the community, within two weeks of receipt of the tape in CIA OSI, however. 50X1

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d. Most recently [ ] was held up in CIA OSI for a month by virtue of the requirement of the Director of the Project for an immediate intelligence appreciation, and thereupon it was forwarded to NTPC. During this period, however, SAC personnel spent several days in the CIA OSI laboratory and obtained any and all pertinent information.

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e. In the case of Middle East missions, CIA OSI has read-out specified tapes upon direction of Operations for feed-back to Operations and has not forwarded the tapes on these missions to NTPC (except for those on which OSI made a preliminary evaluation) based upon informal agreement with NTPC.

f. Training missions accomplished by Operations (over areas not of ELINT interest) have by agreement with Operations not been read-out at all.

2. Inasmuch as the referenced memorandum deals with the matter of Air Force/CIA relations in regard to availability of tapes in general terms, the foregoing is an effort to recapitulate the experience we have had in order to see where the problem may lie. At this writing, I am at a loss to know what specific action to take within the Agency in order to meet the desires of your memorandum.

3. However, let me say that it is our desire to adhere closely to established and agreed procedure which I would like to restate here as follows:

a. That CIA OSI is responsible for transmitting the original tape to NTPC as quickly as it can complete the required preliminary read-out for technical and operational feed-back.

b. Responsibility for duping and transmission of these tapes to any and all other US agencies interested rests with NTPC.

4. In the event in the future there is a requirement from any source for a complete read-out of a TALENT ELINT tape by CIA OSI, this office will ensure that all parties at interest will have agreed to the delay, or if

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disagreement, that it is resolved at the appropriate level. Insofar as NTPC feels that it can make use of any tapes now in the custody of CIA OSI resulting from either Middle East missions, training missions, or missions which may be directed against some area other than the foregoing and also other than the USSR or its satellites, this Agency will be pleased to make them promptly available.

5. Within the framework of this memorandum, it is my belief, and I hope you will concur, that NTPC and CIA OSI should be able to work out satisfactorily any detailed arrangements. I would greatly appreciate being informed promptly in the future insofar as in a specific instance NTPC feels it has reason to be dissatisfied with the timeliness in receipt of tapes.

**JAMES Q. REBER**  
Chairman

Ad Hoc Requirements Committee

cc: A/C/DPD (cy 3)  
OSI TCO (cy 4)  
Ops/DPD (cy 5)  
R&D/DPD (cy 6)

C/SRS/DPD-DD/P:JQReber:cw  
Cy 7&8-C/SRS/DPD-TD/P

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